

DOXOLOGY

The unofficial leader of the youth group in the church is outlining what will happen at the fund-raising dinner this evening in the Family Life Center. The young people are to serve the meal and stand around the perimeter of the room throughout dinner and the ensuing prayers and speeches. The leader explains: Then just after Brother Jones gives his invitation for free-will offerings, Brother Smith is going to stand up and say he is moved to give a thousand dollars. Then I want all of us, all around the room, to spontaneously break out singing "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow." It'll be a great moment for the Lord.

EXPERIENCED TEACHER LONGS FOR HALCYON DAYS

One of his bouffant sophomores, a blonde and blank P.E. major from his old West Texas high school, interrupted his peripatetic remarks with "Please don't tell us about those six million Jews or the forty thousand men, women, and children who starved to death today or how many millions or trillions it costs us to fight a war." In a voice not really aggressive. Long suffering. Resigned. Slightly disgusted. Weeks later, when he asks for an example of religious intolerance, she volunteers: she and her high-school friends were forced to eat cafeteria fish on Fridays, and all because of the Catholics. He sighs. He longs for one of his old, easy jobs, as a hot-tar man on a roofing crew, or digging caliche with a shot-shovel. Maybe he could have been a straw-boss by now.

— Jim Linebarger

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LOST & FOUND

I lost weight,
you found it
& stuffed it up your jumper.

EASILY PLEASED

I went to a party,
told a joke
& somebody laughed.